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(71) Applicant:

MITSUBISHI MOTORS CORP

(72) Inventor:

TAMURA YASUKI **NAKAYAMA OSAMU** OKAMOTO TAKUYA

(54) EXHAUST EMISSION CONTROL DEVICE FOR INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an exhaust emission control device for an internal combustion engine which can restrain the deterioration of a fuel consumption and drivability and release a sulphur component efficiently and surely.

SOLUTION: This exhaust emission control device for an internal combustion engine is provided in an exhaust gas passage and provided with a catalyst absorbing the sulphur component in an exhaust gas under a first operation state in which an exhaust air fuel ratio is an oxydation atmosphere and releasing the sulphur component absorbed under a second operation state in which a high temperature and exhaust air fuel ratio are a restoration atmosphere. In that device, in a second operation state (S12, S14), the exhaust flow rate poured in the catalyst by a flow rate reduction means is properly reduced (S18). Therefore, even if the exhaust temperature and exhaust air fuel ratio are

changed (S20, S22), the catalyst is held in the high temperature and restoration atmosphere.

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(21) 出願番号 特願平10-303894 (71) 出願人 000006286 三菱自動車工業株式会社 東京都港区芝五丁目33番8号 (72) 発明者 田村 保樹 東京都港区芝五丁目33番8号 三菱自動車工業株式会社内 (72) 発明者 中山 修 東京都港区芝五丁目33番8号 三菱自動車工業株式会社内 (74) 代理人 100090022

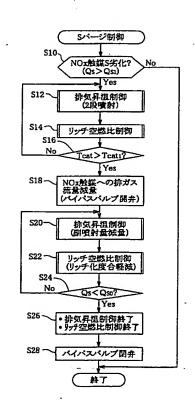
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(54) 【発明の名称】 内燃機関の排気浄化装置

(57)【要約】

【課題】 燃費やドライバビリティの悪化を抑えて効率 良く確実に硫黄成分を放出可能な内燃機関の排気浄化装 置を提供する。

【解決手段】 排気通路に設けられ、排気空燃比が酸化 雰囲気となる第1運転状態で排気中の硫黄成分を吸蔵し、高温且つ排気空燃比が還元雰囲気となる第2運転状態の下に吸蔵した硫黄成分を放出する触媒を備えた内燃機関の排気浄化装置において、第2運転状態(S12,S14)のときには、流量減量手段によって触媒に流入する排気流量が適宜減量させられ(S18)、故に、排気温度や排気空燃比を変化させても(S20,S22)、触媒は高温且つ還元雰囲気に保持される。



弁理士 長門 侃二

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 排気通路に設けられ、排気空燃比が酸化 雰囲気となる第1運転状態で排気中の硫黄成分を吸蔵 し、高温且つ排気空燃比が還元雰囲気となる第2運転状態で前記吸蔵した硫黄成分を放出する触媒と、

前記第2運転状態のとき、前記触媒に流入する排気流量 を減量する流量減量手段と、

を備えたことを特徴とする内燃機関の排気浄化装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、内燃機関の排気浄化装置に係り、詳しくは、触媒に吸蔵された硫黄酸化物(SOx)を除去する技術に関する。

[0002]

【関連する背景技術】一般に、燃料中にはS(サルファ)成分(硫黄成分)が含まれており、このS成分は酸素と反応してSOx(硫黄酸化物)となり、該SOxは硫酸塩X-SO4として排気浄化触媒に吸蔵される(S被毒)。例えば、吸蔵型NOx触媒の場合には、排気空燃比がリーン空燃比(酸化雰囲気)のときにおいて排ガス中のNOxとともにSOxを吸蔵してしまい、触媒のNOx浄化機能が低下するという問題がある。

【0003】そこで、このようにSOxが吸蔵型NOx触媒に吸蔵された場合、触媒を排気昇温制御(例えば、点火時期のリタード)により所定の高温とし且つ触媒周辺の排気空燃比をリッチ空燃比(酸素濃度が低下した還元雰囲気)とすることで当該吸蔵されたSOxを放出する技術(S放出制御)が特開平7-217474号公報等により公知である。

[0004]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】ところで、上記公報 (特開平7-217474号公報) に開示された技術では、S放出制御中には、触媒温度を常に上記所定の高温に保持しておく必要性から、吸蔵されたSOxが放出されるまで排気昇温制御を継続している。しかしながら、このように排気昇温制御(点火時期のリタード等)を長期間に亘り継続することは、内燃機関本来の出力を低下させることになるため、燃費の悪化、及びドライバビリティの悪化に繋がり好ましいことではない。

【0005】そこで、排気昇温制御の実施期間を短縮することが考えられるが、上記公報に開示された構成では、排ガスが常に吸蔵型NOx触媒を通るように構成されているため、単に排気昇温制御の実施期間を縮めただけでは、排気昇温制御の終了によって排ガスの温度が低下して触媒温度が低下し、触媒温度を十分に上記所定の高温に保持できないという問題がある。特に、排気量の大きい内燃機関のように排ガス流量が多いような状況下では、当該温度の低下した多量の排ガスの流れによって一旦所定温度にまで昇温した触媒が急速に冷却されることになり、吸蔵されたSOxが完全に放出されないまま

にS放出制御が終了してしまうおそれがあり好ましいことではない。

【0006】本発明はこのような問題点を解決するためになされたもので、その目的とするところは、燃費やドライバビリティの悪化を抑えて効率良く確実に硫黄成分を放出可能な内燃機関の排気浄化装置を提供することにある。

[0 0 0 7]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記した目的を達成するために、請求項1の発明によれば、排気通路に設けられ、排気空燃比が酸化雰囲気となる第1運転状態で排気中の硫黄成分を吸蔵し、高温且つ排気空燃比が還元雰囲気となる第2運転状態の下に吸蔵した硫黄成分を放出する触媒を備えた内燃機関の排気浄化装置において、第2運転状態のときには、流量減量手段によって触媒に流入する排気流量が適宜減量させられる。

【0008】例えば、第2運転状態が開始された後、触媒が所定の高温になると、触媒に流入する排気流量が減量させられて触媒に排ガスが流れ難くされる。このように触媒に排ガスが殆ど流れないようにされると、通常、第2運転状態では、触媒を高温にすべく点火時期のリタード等を行って排気温度を上昇させ、排気空燃比を還元雰囲気とすべく空燃比をリッチ空燃比にするのであるが、これら点火時期のリタード量やリッチ空燃比の度合を小さく抑え、排ガスの温度を低下させるよう操作しても、当該低温の排ガス流によって触媒が冷却されてしまうことが殆どなくなり、触媒は暫時良好に所定の高温に保持され、排気空燃比は良好に還元雰囲気に保持される。

【0009】この場合、第2運転状態では点火時期のリタード等により内燃機関本来の出力が低下するとともに空燃比のリッチ空燃比化により燃料供給量が増加して燃費やドライバビリティが悪化する傾向にあるのであるが、当該第2運転状態での運転期間を触媒が所定の高温になるまでの必要且つ十分な期間に抑えることができ、燃費やドライバビリティの悪化を防止しながら、触媒に吸蔵された後、触媒が所定の高温になると、触媒に流入する
お、近、触媒が所定の高温になると、触媒に流入する
お気流を一切遮断するのがよく、このようにすれば、内燃機関の運転状態を通常の運転状態に戻すようにもでき、燃費やドライバビリティの悪化をより一層好適に防止しながら、触媒に吸蔵された硫黄成分を効率よく確実に放出可能となる。

[0011]

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の一実施形態を添付 図面に基づき説明する。図1を参照すると、車両に搭載 された本発明に係る内燃機関の排気浄化装置の概略構成 図が示されており、以下同図に基づいて本発明に係る排 気浄化装置の構成を説明する。

【0012】機関本体(以下、単にエンジンという) 1 は、例えば、燃料噴射モード(運転モード)を切換える ことで吸気行程での燃料噴射(吸気行程噴射モード)ま たは圧縮行程での燃料噴射(圧縮行程噴射モード)を実 施可能な筒内噴射型火花点火式直列4気筒ガソリンエン ジンとされている。そして、この筒内噴射型のエンジン 1は、容易にして理論空燃比 (ストイキオ) での運転や リッチ空燃比での運転(リッチ空燃比運転)の他、リー ン空燃比での運転(リーン空燃比運転)が実現可能とさ れており、特に圧縮行程噴射モードでは、超リーン空燃 比での運転が可能とされている。

【0013】同図に示すように、エンジン1のシリンダ ヘッド2には、各気筒毎に点火プラグ4とともに電磁式 の燃料噴射弁6が取り付けられており、これにより、燃 焼室8内に燃料を直接噴射可能とされている。そして、 燃料噴射弁6には、燃料パイプを介して燃料タンクを擁 した燃料供給装置(共に図示せず)が接続されている。 【0014】さらに、シリンダヘッド2には、各気筒毎 に略直立方向に吸気ポートが形成されており、各吸気ポ ートと連通するようにして吸気マニホールド10の一端 20

がそれぞれ接続されている。そして、吸気マニホールド 10の他端にはスロットル弁11が接続されており、該 スロットル弁11にはスロットル開度θthを検出するス ロットルポジションセンサ (TPS) 11 a が設けられ

【0015】また、シリンダヘッド2には、各気筒毎に 略水平方向に排気ポートが形成されており、各排気ポー トと連通するようにして排気マニホールド12の一端が それぞれ接続されている。図中符号13は、クランク角 を検出するクランク角センサであり、該クランク角セン サ13はエンジン回転速度Neを検出可能とされてい る。

【0016】なお、当該筒内噴射型のエンジン1は既に 公知のものであり、その構成の詳細についてはここでは 説明を省略する。同図に示すように、排気マニホールド 12には排気管(排気通路)14が接続されており、こ の排気管14にはエンジン1に近接した小型の近接三元 触媒20、吸蔵型NOx触媒30及び三元触媒32を介 してマフラー(図示せず)が接続されている。また、排 気管14の吸蔵型NOx触媒30上流部には排気温度を 検出する高温センサ16が設けられている。

【0017】また、排ガスが吸蔵型NOx触媒30を迂 回するようにしてバイパス通路34が設けられており、 バイパス通路34の排気管14からの分岐部には、バイ パス通路34へ流入する排ガス流量と吸蔵型NOx触媒 30へ流入する排ガス流量との比率を調節するバタフラ イ式のバイパスバルブ36が配設されている。このバイ パスバルブ36はソレノイド38によって開閉作動可能 とされている。

【0018】吸蔵型NOx触媒30は、酸化雰囲気にお

いてNOxを一旦吸蔵させ、主としてCOの存在する還 元雰囲気中においてNOxをN2 (窒素) 等に還元させる 機能を持つものである。詳しくは、吸蔵型NOx触媒3 0は、貴金属として白金 (Pt), ロジウム (Rh) 等 を有した触媒として構成されており、吸蔵材としてはバ リウム (Ba) 等のアルカリ金属、アルカリ土類金属が 採用されている。

【0019】さらに、入出力装置、記憶装置(ROM、 RAM、不揮発性RAM等)、中央処理装置(CP U)、タイマカウンタ等を備えたECU(電子コントロ ールユニット) 40が設置されており、このECU40 により、本発明に係る内燃機関の排気浄化装置の総合的 な制御が行われる。ECU40の入力側には、上述した TPS11a、クランク角センサ13や高温センサ16 等の各種センサ類が接続されており、これらセンサ類か らの検出情報が入力する。

【0020】一方、ECU40の出力側には、点火コイ ルを介して上述した点火プラグ4や燃料噴射弁6等が接 続されており、これら点火コイル、燃料噴射弁6等に は、各種センサ類からの検出情報に基づき演算された燃 料噴射量や点火時期等の最適値がそれぞれ出力される。 これにより、燃料噴射弁6から適正量の燃料が適正なタ イミングで噴射され、点火プラグ4によって適正なタイ ミングで点火が実施される。

【0021】ところで、ECU40では、TPS11a からのスロットル開度情報 θ thとクランク角センサ 1 3 からのエンジン回転速度情報Neとに基づいてエンジン 負荷に対応する目標筒内圧、即ち目標平均有効圧Peを 求めるようにされており、さらに、当該目標平均有効圧 Peとエンジン回転速度情報Neとに応じてマップ(図示 せず)より燃料噴射モードを設定するようにされてい る。例えば、目標平均有効圧Peとエンジン回転速度Ne とが共に小さいときには、燃料噴射モードは圧縮行程噴 射モードとされ、燃料は圧縮行程で噴射され、一方、目 標平均有効圧Peが大きくなり或いはエンジン回転速度。 Neが大きくなると燃料噴射モードは吸気行程噴射モー ドとされ、燃料は吸気行程で噴射される。吸気行程噴射 モードには、リーン空燃比とされる吸気リーンモード、 理論空燃比とされるストイキオフィードバックモード、 40 及び、リッチ空燃比とされるオープンループモードとが

【0022】そして、目標平均有効圧Peとエンジン回 転速度Neとから制御目標となる目標空燃比(目標A/ F)が設定され、上記適正量の燃料噴射量は該目標A/ Fに基づいて決定される。上記高温センサ16により検 出された排気温度情報からは触媒温度Tcatが推定され る。詳しくは、高温センサ16を吸蔵型NOx触媒30 に直接設置できないことに起因して発生する誤差を補正 するために、目標平均有効圧Peとエンジン回転速度情 50 報 Neとに応じて予め実験等により温度差マップ (図示)

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せず)が定められており、触媒温度Tcatは当該温度差 マップと排気流量情報(吸入空気量情報)等に基づいて 推定されるようになっている。

【0023】以下、このように構成された排気浄化装置 の本発明に係る作用について説明する。つまり、吸蔵型 NOx触媒30には、上述したようにリーン空燃比運転 時(第1運転状態)においてSOxも吸蔵され、S(サ ルファ)パージ制御(S放出制御)により当該SOxを 除去するのであるが、以下、本発明に係るSパージ制御 について説明する。

【0024】図2を参照すると、本発明に係るSパージ 制御ルーチンのフローチャートが示されており、以下当 該フローチャートに沿って説明する。先ず、ステップS 10では、NOx触媒がS(サルファ)劣化したか否 か、即ち吸蔵型NOx触媒30に吸蔵されたSOxの量 (被毒S量Qs) が所定量Qs1よりも大きい(Qs>Qs 1) か否かを判別する。ここに、被毒 S 量 Q s は推定によ り求められる値である。以下、被毒S量Qsの推定手法 について簡単に説明する。

【0025】被毒S量Qsは、基本的には燃料噴射積算 量Qfに基づき設定されるものであり、燃料噴射制御ル ーチン(図示せず)の実行周期毎に次式により演算され る。

 $Qs = Qs(n-1) + \Delta Qf \cdot K - Rs \cdots (1)$

ここに、Qs(n-1)は被毒S量の前回値であり、 ΔQf は 実行周期当たりの燃料噴射積算量、Kは補正係数、Rs は実行周期当たりの放出S量を示している。

【0026】つまり、現在の被毒S量Qsは、実行周期 当たりの燃料噴射積算量 A Qfを補正係数Kで補正して 積算するとともに、該積算値から実行周期当たりの放出 S量Rsを減算することで求められる。補正係数Kは、 例えば、次式(2)に示すように、空燃比A/Fに応じた S被毒係数K1、燃料中のS含有量に応じたS被毒係数 K2及び触媒温度Tcatに応じたS被毒係数K3の3つの 補正係数の積からなっている。

 $[0\ 0\ 2\ 7]\ K = K1 \cdot K2 \cdot K3 \cdots (2)$

また、実行周期当たりの放出 S 量 R s は次式(3)から演算 される。

 $Rs = \alpha \cdot R1 \cdot R2 \cdot dT \cdots (3)$

ここに、αは単位時間当たりの放出率(設定値)であ り、dTは燃料噴射制御ルーチンの実行周期を示してお り、R1及びR2はそれぞれ触媒温度Tcatに応じた放出 能力係数及び空燃比A/Fに応じた放出能力係数を示し

【0028】ステップS10の判別結果が偽(No)の 場合には、Sパージを行う必要がないため、何もせずに 当該ルーチンを抜ける。一方、判別結果が真 (Yes) で、被毒S量Qsが所定量Qs1を超え、NOx触媒がS劣 化したと判定された場合には、次にステップS12に進 み、Sバージを開始する。ステップS12では、吸蔵型

NOx触媒30を昇温させるべく、排気昇温制御を行う (第2運転状態)。実際には、ここでは、2段噴射(複 数回噴射)を行う。つまり、吸気行程または圧縮行程中 に主燃焼の主噴射を行うとともに、膨張行程中に副噴射 を行い、副噴射による未燃燃料成分(HC等)を排ガス の熱により排気管14内で燃焼させることで排気昇温を 行い、吸蔵型NOx触媒30を昇温させるようにする。 なお、この排気昇温制御は上述したように点火時期のリ タードであってもよく、点火時期のリタードでも2段噴 10 射と同様の昇温効果が得られる。また、2段噴射と点火

【0029】そして、次のステップS14では、吸蔵型 NOx触媒30を酸素濃度が低下した還元雰囲気にすべ く、目標A/Fひいては排気空燃比をリッチ空燃比(例 えば、値12程度)とするリッチ空燃比制御を行う(第 2運転状態)。これにより、吸蔵型NOx触媒30が高 温にまで昇温させられるとともに還元雰囲気とされて、 Sパージが開始される。

時期のリタードを併用するようにしてもよい。

【0030】次のステップS16では、吸蔵型NOx触 媒30の温度、即ち触媒温度TcatがSパージに必要な 所定温度Tcat 1 (例えば、650℃) を超えた (Tcat >Tcat1)か否かを判別する。判別結果が偽(No) で、触媒温度Tcatが未だ所定温度Tcat 1 (例えば、6 50℃) に達していないような場合には、ステップS1 2及びステップS14において排気昇温制御とリッチ空 燃比制御とを継続実施する。

【0031】一方、ステップS16の判別結果が真(Y es) で、触媒温度Tcatが所定温度Tcat 1を超えたと 判定された場合には、次にステップS18に進む。ステ ップS18では、吸蔵型NOx触媒30への排ガス流量 を減量する。具体的には、触媒温度Tcatが所定温度Tc at 1を超えたら、ECU40から所定の駆動信号をソレ ノイド38に供給し、バイパスバルブ36を開弁側、即 ち排ガスがバイパス通路34を流れるように操作する (流量減量手段)。このとき、バイパスバルブ36は、 排ガスの大半がバイパス通路34に流入し、吸蔵型NO x触媒30へは殆ど流入しないような開度とされる。

【0032】このように、触媒温度Tcatが所定温度Tc at 1を超えた後、排ガスが殆ど吸蔵型NOx触媒30を 通らないようになると、吸蔵型NOx触媒30は、バイ パスバルブ36が開弁され吸蔵型NOx触媒30へ流れ る排ガスが減少させられた時点の温度、即ち所定温度T cat 1に良好に保持されることになる。一方、Sパージ はSOxの吸蔵された吸蔵型NOx触媒30が還元雰囲気 にあり且つ所定温度Tcat 1以上でれば良好に実施され ることが実験等により分かっている。つまり、このよう に吸蔵型NOx触媒30に流入する排ガスが減少させら れたとしても、Sパージは良好に継続されるのである。 【0033】なお、この際、吸蔵型NOx触媒30は走 50 行風によって冷却されるが、吸蔵型NOx触媒30の断

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熱性は高く、走行風による冷却度合は排ガス流による冷 却に比べれば極めて小さい。故に、当該走行風による吸 蔵型NO×触媒30の温度への影響は殆ど無いとみなせ 無視できる。そして、次のステップS20では、2段噴 射の副噴射量を減量し排気昇温の昇温度合を低下させる ようにして排気昇温制御を継続実施する。このように排 気昇温の昇温度合を低下させると、排ガスの温度は低下 する。しかしながら、上述した如く、バイパスバルブ3 6の開弁後は、当該降温した排ガスは殆ど吸蔵型NOx 触媒30へ流れることはなく、吸蔵型NOx触媒30が 不用意に降温してしまうことはない。つまり、吸蔵型N Ox触媒30へ流れる排ガスが減少させられた後にあっ ては、僅かに吸蔵型NOx触媒30へ流れる排ガスによ る昇温作用の維持を考慮しながら、このように 2 段噴射 の副噴射量を減量して排気昇温制御を実施することもで き、このようにすれば、吸蔵型NOx触媒30に悪影響 を及ぼすことなく燃料消費量を節約でき、燃費の向上を 図ることができることになる。

【0034】また、ステップS22では、リッチ化度合 を軽減し、目標A/Fひいては排気空燃比をストイキオ 寄りにしてリッチ空燃比制御を実施する。Sパージを行 う際には、吸蔵型NOx触媒30の温度が所定温度Tcat 1を超えていれば、排気空燃比は、リッチ空燃比である 限りストイキオ近傍値であってもよいことが実験等によ り分かっている。また、実際には、吸蔵型NOx触媒3 0へ流れる排ガスが減少させられると、吸蔵型NOx触 媒30は、吸蔵型NOx触媒30へ流れる排ガスが減少 した時点のリッチ化度合の高い好適な還元雰囲気のまま に暫時保持される。即ち、吸蔵型NOx触媒30へ流れ る排ガスが減少させられた後にあっては、僅かに吸蔵型 NOx触媒30へ流れる排ガスによる還元雰囲気の維持 を考慮しながら、このように目標A/FをSパージの開 始時点よりもストイキオ寄りの値 (例えば、値14程 度) にでき、このようにすれば、やはり燃料消費量を節 約でき、燃費の向上を図ることができる。

【0035】なお、このときバイバス通路34を流れる排ガスは、排気空燃比がストイキオ近傍となるので、三元触媒32によって良好に浄化される。ステップS24では、上記のようにして触媒温度Tcatが所定温度Tcat1に保持された吸蔵型NOx触媒30において、Sパージが十分に進行し、上記式(1)に基づき、被毒S量Qsが最小値Qs0を下回った(Qs<Qs0)か否かを判別する。判別結果が偽(No)の場合には、ステップS20及びステップS22において、副噴射量を減量した排気昇温制御とリッチ化度合を軽減したリッチ空燃比制御とをさらに継続して実施する。

【0036】一方、ステップS24の判別結果が真(Yes)で、被毒S量Qsが最小値Qs0を下回ったと判定された場合には、十分にSパージは実施されたとみなすことができ、この場合には、ステップS26に進み、排50

気昇温制御とリッチ空燃比制御とを終了する。そして、さらに、ステップS28において、開弁していたバイパスバルプ36を閉弁し(図1中に破線で示す状態)、通常通り排ガスの全量が吸蔵型NOx触媒30へ流れるようにする。これにより、本発明に係る一連のSバージ制御が完了する。

【0037】ここで、図3を参照すると、本発明の他の実施形態のフローチャートの一部が示されており、以下当該他の実施形態について説明する。なお、図3には、上記実施形態と異なる部分ついてのみ示されており、ここでは上記実施形態と共通する部分(ステップS10~ステップS16)については説明を省略し、異なる部分についてのみ説明する。

【0038】上記ステップS16を経てステップS18"では、吸蔵型NOx触媒30への排ガス流を一切遮断する。つまり、触媒温度Tcatが所定温度Tcat1を超えたら、ECU40から所定の駆動信号をソレノイド38に供給してバイパスバルブ36を全開とし(図1中に実線で示す状態)、全ての排ガスがバイパス通路34を流れるように操作する。

【0039】これにより、吸蔵型NOx触媒30は、バイパスバルプ36が全開とされ吸蔵型NOx触媒30へ流れる排ガスが遮断させられた時点の温度、即ち所定温度Tcat 1に確実に保持されることになり、やはりSパージは良好に継続される。そして、次のステップS20"では、2段噴射を中止し排気昇温制御を中止する。排ガスが一切吸蔵型NOx触媒30に流れないようにされると、排ガス温度が低下しても吸蔵型NOx触媒30の温度低下はなく、故にこのように排気昇温制御を中止することもでき、これにより、燃料消費量を通常の運転状態と同様にでき、燃費のさらなる向上を図ることができる。

【0040】また、ステップS22,では、ストイキオフィードバック(ストイキオF/B)制御を実施する。排ガスが吸蔵型NOx触媒30に一切流入しないようにされると、排気空燃比がどのような値であっても吸蔵型NOx触媒30は排ガスの影響を受けず良好に還元雰囲気に維持される。故に、三元触媒32での浄化能力を考慮しながらこのようにストイキオF/B制御を実施することもでき、これにより、やはり燃料消費量を通常の運転状態と同様にでき、燃費のさらなる向上を図ることができる。

【0041】なお、このようにストイキオF/B制御を実施するようにすると、その後に吸蔵型NOx触媒30の温度が所定温度Tcat 1を下回ったような場合に、直ぐに排気昇温制御やリッチ空燃比制御に移行できるという利点もある。ステップS24'では、上記ステップS24の場合と同様に、被毒S量Qsが最小値Qs0を下回った(Qs<Qs0)か否かを判別する。判別結果が偽(No)の場合には、ステップS20'及びステップS

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22'を継続して実施する。

【0042】一方、ステップS24'の判別結果が真(Yes)で、被毒S量Qsが最小値Qs0を下回ったと判定された場合には、十分にSパージは実施されたとみなすことができ、この場合には、ステップS26'に進み、上記排気昇温制御の中止に加えてさらにストイキオF/B制御をも終了する。そして、ステップS28'において、全開していたバイパスバルブ36を閉弁し(図1中に破線で示す状態)、上記同様に、通常通り排ガスの全量が吸蔵型NOx触媒30へ流れるようにし、Sパージ制御を終了する。

【0043】ところで、当該他の実施形態では、吸蔵型NOx触媒30への排ガス流を遮断した後、ストイキオF/B制御を実施するようにしたが、排気空燃比をリーン空燃比に制御するようにしてもよく、この場合には、バイバス通路34を通る排ガス中のNOxの浄化を考慮して、バイバス通路34の排気管14への合流部と三元触媒32との間にさらにNOx触媒(例えば、選択還元型NOx触媒)を配設するようにしてもよい。なお、選択還元型NOx触媒は、NOxを常時選択的に浄化可能な触媒である。

【0044】なお、上記実施形態では、吸蔵型NOx触媒30を迂回するバイパス通路34を設け、触媒温度T catが所定温度Tcat 1を超えると該バイパス通路34に排ガスを流すようにして吸蔵型NOx触媒30に流入する排ガス流量を減量するようにしたが、これに限られず、例えば、エンジン1がアイドル運転中であったり、或いは、ハイブリッド車(発電機をエンジンで定速回転させて発電するタイプの電気自動車)に使用されるエンジンのように、エンジン出力を一時的に低下させても車 30両走行に問題がないような状況の場合には、エンジン回転速度を低下させることで排ガス流量を減量するように

してもよく、また、エンジンを停止させて排ガス流量を ゼロにしてもよい (流量減量手段)。

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【0045】また、上記実施形態では、エンジン1を筒内噴射型ガソリンエンジンとしたが、これに限られず、エンジン1は、如何なる形態のエンジンであってもよい。

[0046]

【発明の効果】以上詳細に説明したように、本発明の請求項1の内燃機関の排気浄化装置によれば、燃費やドラ 10 イバビリティの悪化を防止しながら、触媒に吸蔵された 硫黄成分を効率よく確実に放出することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

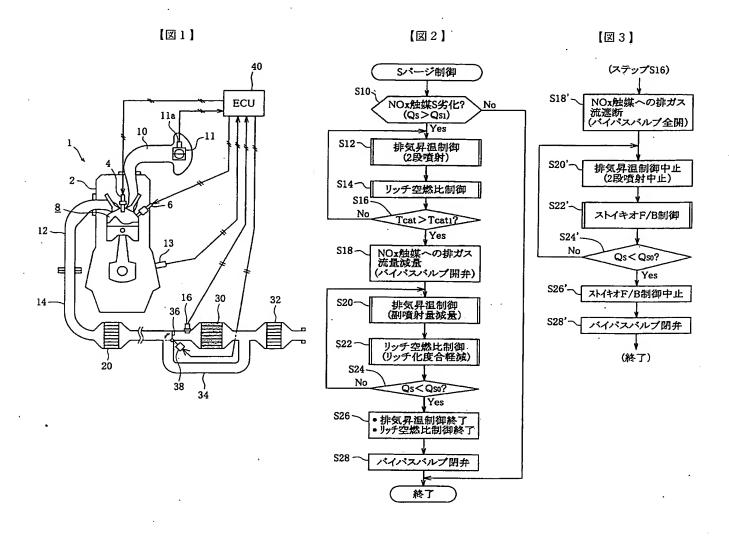
【図1】本発明に係る内燃機関の排気浄化装置を示す概略構成図である。

【図2】本発明に係るSパージ制御の制御ルーチンを示すフローチャートである。

【図3】本発明の他の実施形態に係るSパージ制御の制 御ルーチンを示すフローチャートの一部である。

【符号の説明】

- 20 1 エンジン(内燃機関)
 - 4 点火プラグ
 - 6 燃料噴射弁
 - 11 スロットル弁
 - 11a スロットルポジションセンサ
 - 13 クランク角センサ
 - 16 高温センサ
 - 30 吸蔵型NOx触媒
 - 32 三元触媒
 - 34 バイパス通路
 -) 36 バイパスバルブ
 - 38 ソレノイド
 - 4.0 電子コントロールユニット (ECU)



·フロントページの続き

(51) Int. CI.7

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| (72)発明者 | 岡本 拓也 | | | Fターム(| 参考): | 3G084 | AA03 | AA04 | BA09 | BA13 | BA15 |
| | 東京都港区芝 | 五丁目33番8号 | 三菱自動車 | | | | BA17 | BA19 | BA24 | CA07 | DA05 |
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| | | | | • | | | EB16 | FA10 | FA27 | FA33 | FA38 |
| | | | • | | 3 | 3G091 | AA02 | AA12 | AA14 | AA17 | AA24 |
| | | | | | | | AA28 | AB03 | AB05 | AB06 | BA11 |
| | | | | | | | BA14 | BA15 | BA19 | BA33 | CA12 |
| | | | | | | | CA13 | CB02 | CB03 | CB05 | DA01 |
| | | | | | | | DA03 | DA05 | DA08 | DB06 | DB10 |
| | | | | | 4 | 4D048 | AA02 | CA01 | DA01 | DA02 | DA05 |
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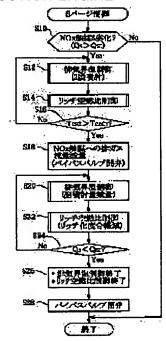
(72)Inventor: TAMURA YASUKI

NAKAYAMA OSAMU OKAMOTO TAKUYA

(54) EXHAUST EMISSION CONTROL DEVICE FOR INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an exhaust emission control device for an internal combustion engine which can restrain the deterioration of a fuel consumption and drivability and release a sulphur component efficiently and surely. SOLUTION: This exhaust emission control device for an internal combustion engine is provided in an exhaust gas passage and provided with a catalyst absorbing the sulphur component in an exhaust gas under a first operation state in which an exhaust air fuel ratio is an oxydation atmosphere and releasing the sulphur component absorbed under a second operation state in which a high temperature and exhaust air fuel ratio are a restoration atmosphere. In that device, in a second operation state (S12, S14), the exhaust flow rate poured in the catalyst by a flow rate reduction means is properly reduced (S18). Therefore, even if the exhaust temperature and exhaust air fuel ratio are changed (S20, S22), the catalyst is held in the high temperature and restoration atmosphere.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine which is formed in a flueway, does occlusion of the sulfur component under exhaust air by the 1st operational status from which an exhaust-air air-fuel ratio serves as an oxidizing atmosphere, and is characterized by to have the catalyst which emits said sulfur component which carried out occlusion by the 2nd operational status from which an elevated temperature and an exhaust-air air-fuel ratio serve as reducing atmosphere, and a flow rate loss-in-quantity means decrease the quantity of the exhaust-air flow rate which flows into said catalyst at the time of said 2nd operational status.

[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to an internal combustion engine's exhaust emission control device, and relates to the technique of removing in detail the sulfur oxide (SOx) by which occlusion was carried out to the catalyst.

[0002]

[A related background technique] Generally, S (sulfas) component (sulfur component) is contained in the fuel, this S component reacts with oxygen, and serves as SOx (sulfur oxide), and occlusion of this SOx is carried out to an exhaust air purification catalyst as sulfate X-SO4 (S poisoning). For example, in the case of an occlusion mold NOx catalyst, when an exhaust air air-fuel ratio is the Lean air-fuel ratio (oxidizing atmosphere), occlusion of the SOx is carried out with NOx in exhaust gas, and there is a problem that the NOx purification function of a catalyst falls.

[0003] Then, when occlusion of the SOx is carried out to an occlusion mold NOx catalyst in this way, the technique (S emission control) which emits the SOx concerned by which occlusion was carried out by making a catalyst into a predetermined elevated temperature by exhaust air temperature up control (for example, retard of ignition timing), and making the exhaust air air-fuel ratio of the catalyst circumference into a rich air-fuel ratio (reducing atmosphere to which the oxygen density fell) is well-known by JP,7-217474,A etc.

[0004]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] By the way, with the technique indicated by the abovementioned official report (JP,7-217474,A), exhaust air temperature up control is continued until SOx by which occlusion was carried out is emitted during S emission control from the need of always holding whenever [catalyst temperature] to the above-mentioned predetermined elevated temperature. However, in order to make the output of internal combustion engine original decline, continuing and continuing exhaust air temperature up control (retard of ignition timing etc.) in this way, at a long period of time leads to aggravation of fuel consumption, and aggravation of drivability, and it is not a desirable thing. [0005] Then, although it is possible to shorten the operation period of exhaust air temperature up control Since it consists of configurations indicated by the above-mentioned official report so that exhaust gas may always pass along an occlusion mold NOx catalyst, only by cutting down the operation period of exhaust air temperature up control The temperature of exhaust gas falls by termination of exhaust air temperature up control, whenever [catalyst temperature] falls, and there is a problem that whenever [catalyst temperature] cannot be held to an elevated temperature predetermined [above-mentioned] enough. There is a possibility that S emission control may be completed as SOx by which it will be quickly cooled by the flow of a lot of exhaust gas with which the temperature concerned fell under the situation that there are many amounts of emission like an internal combustion engine with large displacement, and occlusion of the catalyst which carried out the temperature up was once carried out even to predetermined temperature is not especially emitted completely by it, and it is not desirable.

[0006] The place which it was made in order that this invention might solve such a trouble, and is made into the purpose is to suppress aggravation of fuel consumption or drivability and offer the exhaust emission control device of the efficient internal combustion engine which can emit a sulfur component certainly.

[0007]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to attain the above-mentioned purpose, according to invention of claim 1, it is prepared in a flueway. In the exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine having the catalyst which emits the sulfur component which carried out occlusion of the sulfur component

under exhaust air by the 1st operational status from which an exhaust air air-fuel ratio serves as an oxidizing atmosphere, and carried out occlusion to the bottom of the 2nd operational status from which an elevated temperature and an exhaust air air-fuel ratio serve as reducing atmosphere The exhaust air flow rate which flows into a catalyst with a flow rate loss-in-quantity means is made to reduce one's weight suitably at the time of the 2nd operational status.

[0008] For example, it is made hard to make the exhaust air flow rate which flows into a catalyst reduce one's weight, and to flow for a catalyst, if a catalyst becomes a predetermined elevated temperature after the 2nd operational status is started by exhaust gas. Thus, although an air-fuel ratio will usually be made into a rich air-fuel ratio by the 2nd operational status that the retard of ignition timing etc. is performed that a catalyst should be made an elevated temperature, an exhaust-gas temperature is raised, and an exhaust air air-fuel ratio should be made reducing atmosphere if it is made for exhaust gas to hardly flow for a catalyst Even if it operates it so that the degree of the amount of retard of these ignition timing or a rich air-fuel ratio may be stopped small and the temperature of exhaust gas may be reduced It is almost lost that a catalyst will be cooled, a catalyst is held by the emission of the low temperature concerned to a predetermined elevated temperature for a time at fitness, and an exhaust air air-fuel ratio is held good at reducing atmosphere. [0009] In this case, although it is in the inclination for the fuel amount of supply to increase by rich air-fuel ratio-ization of an air-fuel ratio, and for fuel consumption and drivability to get worse, in the 2nd operational status while the output of internal combustion engine original declines by the retard of ignition timing etc. Emission becomes it is efficient and certainly possible about the sulfur component by which occlusion was carried out to the catalyst, being able to stop the operating period in the 2nd operational status concerned at the need and sufficient period until a catalyst becomes a predetermined elevated temperature, and preventing aggravation of fuel consumption or drivability.

[0010] Emission becomes it is efficient and certainly possible about the sulfur component by which occlusion was carried out to the catalyst, being able to return an internal combustion engine's operational status to the usual operational status, and preventing aggravation of fuel consumption or drivability much more suitably preferably, if a catalyst becomes a predetermined elevated temperature, it will be good to intercept entirely and it will carry out the exhaust stream which flows into a catalyst in this way, after the 2nd operational status is started.

[0011]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, 1 operation gestalt of this invention is explained based on an accompanying drawing. If <u>drawing 1</u> is referred to, the outline block diagram of the exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine concerning this invention carried in the car will be shown, and the configuration of the exhaust emission control device applied to this invention based on this drawing below will be explained.

[0012] Let the engine body (only henceforth an engine) 1 be the injection mold jump-spark-ignition type serial 4-cylinder gasoline engine in a cylinder which can carry out fuel injection (injection mode like an inhalation-of-air line) like an inhalation-of-air line, or fuel injection (compression stroke injection mode) in a compression stroke by switching for example, fuel-injection mode (operation mode). And this injection type in a cylinder of engine 1 is made easy, implementation of operation by theoretical air fuel ratio (SUTOIKIO) or operation (the Lean air-fuel ratio operation) with the Lean air-fuel ratio besides operation (rich air-fuel ratio operation) with a rich air-fuel ratio is enabled, and operation of it with a super-RIN air-fuel ratio is especially enabled in compression stroke injection mode.

[0013] As shown in this drawing, the electromagnetic fuel injection valve 6 is attached in the cylinder head 2 of an engine 1 with the ignition plug 4 for every gas column, and, thereby, direct injection of a fuel is enabled in the combustion chamber 8. And the fuel supply system (not shown [both]) which had the fuel tank through the fuel pipe is connected to the fuel injection valve 6.

[0014] Furthermore, the suction port is formed in the abbreviation erection direction for every gas column, and as open for free passage [with each suction port] to the cylinder head 2, the end of an inlet manifold 10 is connected to it, respectively. And the throttle valve 11 is connected to the other end of an inlet manifold 10, and throttle position sensor (TPS) 11a which detects throttle opening thetath is prepared in this throttle valve 11

[0015] Moreover, the exhaust air port is formed in the abbreviation horizontal direction for every gas column, and as open for free passage [with each exhaust air port] to the cylinder head 2, the end of an exhaust manifold 12 is connected to it, respectively. The sign 13 in drawing is a crank angle sensor which detects a crank angle, and is made possible [detection of an engine speed Ne] for this crank angle sensor 13.

[0016] In addition, the injection type in a cylinder concerned of engine 1 is well-known, and already omits explanation about the detail of the configuration here. As shown in this drawing, the exhaust pipe (flueway) 14 is connected to the exhaust manifold 12, and the muffler (not shown) is connected to this exhaust pipe 14 through the small contiguity three way component catalyst 20, the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30, and three way component catalyst 32 close to an engine 1. Moreover, the elevated-temperature sensor 16 which detects an exhaust-gas temperature is formed in the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 upstream section of an exhaust pipe 14.

[0017] Moreover, as exhaust gas bypasses the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30, the bypass path 34 is formed, and the bypass valve 36 of the butterfly type which adjusts the ratio of the amount of emission which flows into the bypass path 34, and the amount of emission which flows into the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 is arranged in the tee from the exhaust pipe 14 of the bypass path 34. Closing motion actuation of this bypass valve 36 is enabled by the solenoid 38.

[0018] The occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 once carries out occlusion of NOx in an oxidizing atmosphere, and has the function to which N2 (nitrogen) etc. is made to return NOx into the reducing atmosphere in which CO mainly exists. In detail, the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 is constituted as a catalyst with platinum (Pt), a rhodium (Rh), etc. as noble metals, and alkali metal, such as barium (Ba), and alkaline earth metal are adopted as occlusion material.

[0019] Furthermore, ECU (electronic control unit)40 equipped with an I/O device, storage (ROM, RAM, nonvolatile RAM, etc.), the central processing unit (CPU), the timer counter, etc. is installed, and synthetic control of the exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine applied to this invention by this ECU40 is performed. The various sensors of TPS11a and the crank angle sensor 13 which were mentioned above, or elevated-temperature sensor 16 grade are connected to the input side of ECU40, and the detection information from these sensors inputs.

[0020] On the other hand, the ignition plug 4 and fuel injection valve 6 grade which were mentioned above through the ignition coil are connected to the output side of ECU40, and optimum values calculated based on the detection information from various sensors, such as fuel oil consumption and ignition timing, are outputted to these ignition coils and fuel injection valve 6 grade, respectively. A proper quantity of a fuel is injected from a fuel injection valve 6 to proper timing by this, and ignition is carried out to proper timing with an ignition plug 4.

[0021] By the way, in ECU40, based on throttle opening information thetath from TPS11a, and the enginespeed information Ne from the crank angle sensor 13, it enables it to ask for the target cylinder internal pressure Pe corresponding to an engine load, i.e., a target mean effective pressure, and fuel-injection mode is further set up from a map (not shown) according to the target mean effective pressure Pe and the enginespeed information Ne concerned. For example, when both the target mean effective pressure Pe and the engine speed Ne are small, if fuel-injection mode is made into compression stroke injection mode, a fuel is injected by the compression stroke, and the target mean effective pressure Pe becomes large on the other hand or an engine speed Ne becomes large, fuel-injection mode will be made into injection mode like an inhalation-of-air line, and a fuel will be injected like an inhalation-of-air line. There are inhalation-of-air RIN mode made into the Lean air-fuel ratio, SUTOIKIO feedback mode made into theoretical air fuel ratio, and an opening loop mode made into a rich air-fuel ratio in injection mode as an inhalation-of-air line. [0022] And the target air-fuel ratio (target A/F) which serves as control objectives from the target mean effective pressure Pe and an engine speed Ne is set up, and the fuel oil consumption of the proper amount of above is determined based on this target A/F. From the exhaust-gas-temperature information detected by the above-mentioned elevated-temperature sensor 16, Tcat is presumed whenever [catalyst temperature]. In order to amend the error which originates in the ability of the direct installation of the elevated-temperature sensor 16 not to be carried out at the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 in detail, and is generated, according to the target mean effective pressure Pe and the engine-speed information Ne, the temperature-gradient map (not shown) is beforehand defined by experiment etc., and Tcat is presumed based on the temperaturegradient map concerned, exhaust air flow rate information (inhalation air content information), etc. whenever [catalyst temperature].

[0023] The operation which relates to this invention of the exhaust emission control device constituted in this way hereafter is explained. That is, although occlusion also of the SOx is carried out to the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 at the time of the Lean air-fuel ratio operation (the 1st operational status) as mentioned above, and S (sulfas) purge control (S emission control) removes the SOx concerned for it, S purge control concerning this invention is explained hereafter.

[0024] If drawing 2 is referred to, the flow chart of S purge control routine concerning this invention will be

shown, and it will explain along with the flow chart concerned below. First, at step S10, it distinguishes whether it is that the amount (the amount Qs of poisoning S) of SOx by which occlusion was carried out to whether the NOx catalyst did S (sulfas) degradation of and the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 is larger (Qs>Qs1) than the specified quantity Qs1. It is the value with which the amount Qs of poisoning S is calculated here by presumption. Hereafter, the presumed technique of the amount Qs of poisoning S is explained briefly.

[0025] The amount Qs of poisoning S is fundamentally set up based on the amount Qf of fuel-injection addition, and is calculated by the degree type for every execution cycle of a fuel-injection control routine (not shown).

Qs=Qs(n-1)+deltaQf-K-Rs -- (1) Qs (n-1) is the last value of the amount of poisoning S, in deltaQf, the amount of fuel-injection addition per execution cycle and K show a correction factor, and Rs shows the amount of emission S per execution cycle here.

[0026] That is, the present amount Qs of poisoning S is calculated by subtracting the amount Rs of emission S per execution cycle from this addition value while it amends and integrates amount of fuel-injection addition deltaQf per execution cycle with a correction factor K. The correction factor K consists of a product of three correction factors of S poisoning multiplier K3 according to Tcat whenever [S poisoning multiplier / according to air-fuel ratio A/F / K1, S poisoning multiplier / according to S content in a fuel / K2, and catalyst temperature], as shown in a degree type (2).

[0027] K=K1, K2, and K3 -- (2) -- the amount Rs of emission S per execution cycle is calculated from a degree type (3) again.

Rs=alpha-R 1, R2, dT -- (3) alpha is a rate of emission per unit time amount (set point), dT shows the execution cycle of a fuel-injection control routine here, and R1 and R2 show the emission capacity multiplier according to Tcat, and the emission capacity multiplier according to air-fuel ratio A/F to it whenever [catalyst temperature], respectively.

[0028] Since it is not necessary to perform S purge when the distinction result of step S10 is a false (No), it escapes from the routine concerned, without doing anything. On the other hand, by truth (Yes), when the amount Qs of poisoning S is judged as having exceeded the specified quantity Qs1 and the NOx catalyst having done S degradation of, a distinction result progresses to step S12 next, and starts S purge. At step S12, exhaust air temperature up control is performed in order to carry out the temperature up of the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 (the 2nd operational status). In fact, two-step injection (multiple-times injection) is performed here. That is, while an inhalation-of-air line performs the main injection of the main combustion into a compression stroke, an expansion line performs subinjection to inside, performs an exhaust air temperature up by burning the unburnt fuel components (HC etc.) by subinjection within an exhaust pipe 14 with the heat of exhaust gas, and is made to carry out the temperature up of the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30. In addition, this exhaust air temperature up control may be the retard of ignition timing, as mentioned above, and the temperature up effectiveness as two-step injection that the retard of ignition timing is also the same is acquired. Moreover, you may make it use together the retard of two-step injection and ignition timing.

[0029] And at the following step S14, rich Air Fuel Ratio Control which makes target A/F, as a result an exhaust air air-fuel ratio a rich air-fuel ratio (for example, about 12 value) is performed that the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 should be made the reducing atmosphere to which the oxygen density fell (the 2nd operational status). By this, while the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 is made to carry out a temperature up even to an elevated temperature, it considers as reducing atmosphere, and S purge is started.

[0030] At the following step S16, Tcat distinguishes whether it is having exceeded the predetermined

[0030] At the following step S16, Tcat distinguishes whether it is having exceeded the predetermined temperature Tcat 1 (for example, 650 degrees C) required for S purge (Tcat>Tcat1) whenever [temperature / of the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 /, i.e., catalyst temperature,]. In a false (No), a distinction result implements exhaust air temperature up control and rich Air Fuel Ratio Control continuously in step S12 and step S14, when Tcat has not yet reached the predetermined temperature Tcat 1 (for example, 650 degrees C) whenever [catalyst temperature].

[0031] On the other hand, the distinction result of step S16 progresses to step S18 next, when it judges that Tcat exceeded the predetermined temperature Tcat 1 whenever [catalyst temperature] by truth (Yes). At step S18, the quantity of the amount of emission to the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 is decreased. If Tcat exceeds the predetermined temperature Tcat 1 whenever [catalyst temperature], a predetermined driving signal will be supplied to a solenoid 38 from ECU40, and specifically, it will be operated so that exhaust gas may flow the bypass path 34 a bypass valve 36 valve-opening-side (flow rate loss-in-quantity means). Let a bypass valve 36 be the opening by which the great portion of exhaust gas flows into the bypass path 34, and

it hardly flows into the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 at this time.

[0032] Thus, after Tcat exceeds the predetermined temperature Tcat 1 whenever [catalyst temperature], when exhaust gas almost ceases to pass along the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30, the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 will be held good at the temperature Tcat 1 at the time of the exhaust gas which a bypass valve 36 is opened and flows to the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 being decreased, i.e., predetermined temperature. on the other hand, if S purge has the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 to which occlusion of the SOx was carried out in reducing atmosphere and it comes out one or more predetermined temperature Tcat, it is understood that it carries out good by experiment etc. That is, even if the exhaust gas which flows into the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 in this way was decreased, S purge is continued good. [0033] In addition, in this case, although therefore cooled in the style of transit, the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 is high, and if it is compared with cooling by emission, it is very small [the catalyst / the cooling degree depended in the style of transit]. [of adiathermic / of the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30] Therefore, it can consider that most effects of the temperature on the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 concerned depended in the style of transit cannot be found, and can ignore. And at the following step S20, as the quantity of the subinjection quantity of two-step injection is decreased and the temperature up degree of an exhaust air temperature up is reduced, exhaust air temperature up control is implemented continuously. Thus, if the temperature up degree of an exhaust air temperature up is reduced, the temperature of exhaust gas will fall. However, as mentioned above, the lowered exhaust gas concerned hardly flows to the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30, and the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 does not lower after valve opening of a bypass valve 36 carelessly. That is, if the quantity of the subinjection quantity of two-step injection can be decreased in this way, exhaust air temperature up control can also be carried out and it does in this way, taking into consideration maintenance of the temperature up operation by the exhaust gas which flows to the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 slightly if it is after the exhaust gas which flows to the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 is decreased, fuel consumption can be saved without having a bad influence on the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30, and improvement in fuel consumption can be aimed at. [0034] Moreover, at step S22, a rich-ized degree is mitigated, target A/F, as a result an exhaust air air-fuel

ratio are made into SUTOIKIO approach, and rich Air Fuel Ratio Control is carried out. If the temperature of the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 is over the predetermined temperature Tcat 1 in case S purge is performed, as long as it is a rich air-fuel ratio, the experiment etc. shows that an exhaust air air-fuel ratio may be a value near SUTOIKIO. Moreover, if the exhaust gas which flows to the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 is decreased in fact, the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 will be held for a time as it is the suitable high reducing atmosphere of the rich-ized degree at the time of the exhaust gas which flows to the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 decreasing. That is, if target A/F is made to the value (for example, about 14 value) of SUTOIKIO approach and is carried out in this way rather than the initiation time of S purge, taking into consideration maintenance of the reducing atmosphere by the exhaust gas which flows to the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 slightly if it is after the exhaust gas which flows to the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 is decreased, fuel consumption can be saved too and improvement in fuel consumption can be aimed at.

[0035] In addition, since an exhaust air air-fuel ratio becomes near SUTOIKIO, the exhaust gas which flows the bypass path 34 at this time is purified by the three way component catalyst 32 good. At step S24, in the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 with which Tcat was held whenever [catalyst temperature] as mentioned above at the predetermined temperature Tcat 1, S purge fully advances and distinguishes whether it is that the amount Qs of poisoning S was less than the minimum value Qs0 (Qs<Qs0) based on the abovementioned formula (1). When a distinction result is a false (No), in step S20 and step S22, it continues further and the exhaust air temperature up control which decreased the quantity of the subinjection quantity, and rich Air Fuel Ratio Control which mitigated the rich-ized degree are carried out.

[0036] On the other hand, by truth (Yes), when it judges that the amount Qs of poisoning S was less than the minimum value Qs0, it can consider that S purge was carried out in 10 minutes, and in this case, the distinction result of step S24 progresses to step S26, and ends exhaust air temperature up control and rich Air Fuel Ratio Control. and the bypass valve 36 which was opening in step S28 further -- closing the valve (condition shown with a broken line in drawing 1) -- usually -- a passage -- exhaust gas -- it is made for the whole quantity to flow to the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 Thereby, a series of S purge control concerning this invention is completed.

[0037] Here, if <u>drawing 3</u> is referred to, a part of flow chart of other operation gestalten of this invention will be shown, and the operation gestalt of these these others will be explained below. In addition, it is shown only by attaching by the different section from the above-mentioned operation gestalt, and about the

part (step S10 - step S16) which is common in the above-mentioned operation gestalt here, explanation is omitted to <u>drawing 3</u>, and only a different part is explained to it.

[0038] By step S18', the emission to the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 is entirely intercepted through the above-mentioned step S16. That is, if Tcat exceeds the predetermined temperature Tcat 1 whenever [catalyst temperature], a predetermined driving signal will be supplied to a solenoid 38 from ECU40, and a bypass valve 36 will be considered as full open (condition shown as a continuous line in <u>drawing 1</u>), and it will be operated so that all exhaust gas may flow the bypass path 34.

[0039] Thereby, it will be held certainly and S purge is too continued by the temperature Tcat 1 at the time of the exhaust gas which a bypass valve 36 is considered as full open, and flows to the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 being made to intercept the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30, i.e., predetermined temperature, good. And two-step injection is stopped by following step S20', and exhaust air temperature up control is stopped by it. If it is made for exhaust gas not to flow for the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 at all, even if exhaust gas temperature falls, there is no temperature fall of the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30, therefore it can also stop exhaust air temperature up control in this way, thereby, can make fuel consumption be the same as that of the usual operational status, and can aim at further improvement in fuel consumption.

[0040] Moreover, SUTOIKIO feedback (SUTOIKIO F/B) control is carried out in step S22'. If it is made for exhaust gas not to flow into the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 at all, no matter an exhaust air air-fuel ratio may be what value, the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 will not be influenced of exhaust gas, but will be maintained by reducing atmosphere good. Therefore, SUTOIKIO F/B control can also be carried out in this way, taking into consideration the purification capacity in a three way component catalyst 32, thereby, fuel consumption can be too made to be the same as that of the usual operational status, and further improvement in fuel consumption can be aimed at.

[0041] In addition, when it was made to carry out SUTOIKIO F/B control in this way and the temperature of the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 is less than the predetermined temperature Tcat 1 after that, there is also an advantage that it can shift to exhaust air temperature up control or rich Air Fuel Ratio Control immediately. In step S24', the amount Qs of poisoning S distinguishes whether it is were less than the minimum value Qs0 (Qs<Qs0) like the case of the above-mentioned step S24. When a distinction result is a false (No), step S20' and step S22' are continued and carried out.

[0042] On the other hand, by truth (Yes), when it judges that the amount Qs of poisoning S was less than the minimum value Qs0, it can consider that S purge was carried out in 10 minutes, and in this case, the distinction result of step S24' progresses to step S26', and, in addition to the termination of the abovementioned exhaust air temperature up control, also ends SUTOIKIO F/B control further. And in step S28', like the above, the fully opened bypass valve 36 is closed (condition shown with a broken line in <u>drawing 1</u> R> 1), it usually passes, and it is made for the whole quantity of exhaust gas to flow to the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30, and it ends S purge control.

[0043] by the way -- being concerned -- others, although it was made to carry out SUTOIKIO F/B control with the operation gestalt after intercepting the emission to the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 You may make it control an exhaust air air-fuel ratio to the Lean air-fuel ratio. In this case You may make it arrange an NOx catalyst (for example, selection reduction type NOx catalyst) further in consideration of purification of NOx in the exhaust gas passing through the bypass path 34 between the unification section to the exhaust pipe 14 of the bypass path 34, and a three way component catalyst 32. In addition, a selection reduction type NOx catalyst is always a catalyst which can be purified alternatively about NOx.

[0044] In addition, although the quantity of the amount of emission which flows into the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 as passes exhaust gas to this bypass path 34 was decreased with the above-mentioned operation gestalt when the bypass path 34 which bypasses the occlusion mold NOx catalyst 30 was formed and Tcat exceeded the predetermined temperature Tcat 1 whenever [catalyst temperature] It is not restricted to this. An engine 1 is [idle] under operation, or Like the engine used for a hybrid car (electric vehicle of the type which is made to carry out fixed-speed rotation and generates a generator with an engine) Even if it reduces engine power temporarily, when it is in a situation which does not have a problem in car transit, you may make it decrease the quantity of the amount of emission by reducing an engine speed, and an engine may be stopped, and the amount of emission may be made into zero (flow rate loss-in-quantity means).

[0045] Moreover, although the engine 1 was used as the injection mold gasoline engine in a cylinder with the above-mentioned operation gestalt, it may not be restricted to this but an engine 1 may be an engine of what kind of gestalt.

[0046]

[Effect of the Invention] As explained to the detail above, according to the exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine of claim 1 of this invention, the sulfur component by which occlusion was carried out to the catalyst can be emitted certainly efficiently, preventing aggravation of fuel consumption or drivability.

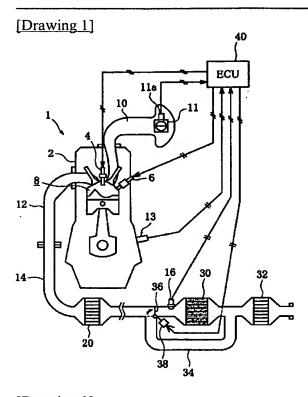
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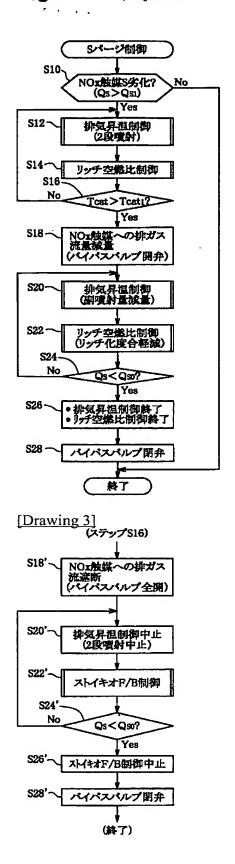
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- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely. 2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.
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DRAWINGS



[Drawing 2]



[Translation done.]